

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 13-33 are pending and are added. Claims 13, 21 and 27 are independent. Claims 1-12 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because FIG. 1 should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art," and because a reference number in FIG. 5 is mislabeled.

The drawings are amended by labeling FIG. 1 as "BACKGROUND ART" and by changing reference numeral 100B in FIG. 5 to "110B." It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the drawings overcome the objections noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, Form PTO-948, indicating whether the drawings are approved, with the next official communication.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-12 are canceled, thereby rendering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)/103(a)

Claims 1-3, 6, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,867,579 to Saito. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito. Claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,021,199 to Ishibashi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-12 are canceled, thereby rendering the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a) moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a) be withdrawn.

While not conceding the appropriateness of any of the rejections, but merely to expedite the prosecution of the instant application, claims 13-33 are added to recite additional aspects of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that the limitations of claims 13-33 are fully supported in the specification of the present invention.

Independent claims 13 and 27 recite a combination of steps in a method for decrypting an encrypted digital data file, including "receiving the encrypted data file" and "decrypting a portion of the received data file while leaving the remaining portion of the data file encrypted." Independent claim 21 recites a combination of elements in a digital data decryption apparatus, including "a receiving unit for receiving an encrypted digital data file" and "a decryption unit for decrypting a portion of the encrypted data file while leaving the remaining portion of the data file encrypted."

It is respectfully submitted that the combinations of elements and steps set forth in independent claims 13, 21 and 27 are not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art of record, including Saito or Ishibashi.

In Saito, a data copyright management apparatus is proposed which, at the same time, can decrypt and re-encrypt the supplied encrypted data to perform copyright management and control. A data copyright management unit 30 includes a CPU 16, a local bus 17, a ROM 18, and an EEPROM 31, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3. A crypt key, data copyright management program and cryptography program are stored in the EEPROM 31. The data copyright management unit 30 performs decryption and re-encryption. However, the copyright management unit 30 does not decrypt only a portion of an encrypted data file and leave the remainder of the data file encrypted, as required by the present invention.

Therefore, Saito does not teach or suggest “receiving the encrypted data file” and “decrypting a portion of the received data file while leaving the remaining portion of the data file encrypted,” as recited in claims 13 and 27. Moreover, Saito does not teach or suggest “a receiving unit for receiving an encrypted digital data file” and “a decryption unit for decrypting a portion of the encrypted data file while leaving the remaining portion of the data file encrypted,” as recited in claim 21.

The Office Action relies on Ishibashi for a teaching of encrypting certain portions of decrypted digital data. Ishibashi is directed to method of encrypting certain packets of digital data and decrypting the encrypted packets. The present invention is completely different from the teachings of Ishibashi since the present invention discloses a method of decrypting only a portion of an encrypted data file, while leaving the remaining portion encrypted. Therefore, Ishibashi does not teach or suggest the limitations of claims 13, 21 and 27, and therefore fails to cure the deficiencies of Saito with respect to those claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the applied prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious the present invention as recited in independent claims 13, 21 and 27. It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 13, 21 and 27 are allowable. Since the dependent claims depend from these allowable independent claims, they should also be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above, as well as for the additional limitations provided by these claims. Accordingly, all pending claims should be in condition for allowance.

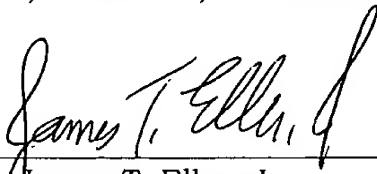
CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If any issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to telephone Sam Bhattacharya (Reg. No. 48,107) at 703-205-8000 in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: 
James T. Eller, Jr.
Reg. No. 39,538

SB
JTE/SB/mmi

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachments: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets showing changes to FIGS. 1 and 5